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OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON

State Department review completed

September 4, 1958

Dear General Cabell:

Re your reference to Catalina at Walter Robertson's meeting today, I have no objection to your mentioning my name in connection with this, provided the circumstances are likewise stated. These are, as you will recall, a meeting of the two of us in your office last Saturday morning, August 30, in which I was seeking your judgment, views and cooperation in connection with opinion problems arising from possible U.S. courses of action in the Quemoy situation. Among quite a number of things, I mentioned the Catalina and San Francisco Bay analogy, saying I had seen it in print somewhere. You indicated you had seen it, too, and that it was a damn poor analogy for reasons you then stated. (This sort of concept, we must agree, tends to influence public opinion.) This, to the best of my recollection, was the extent of what was said on the subject.

With respect to the primary idea we discussed that morning and which the OCB has now, I understand, passed along to the interagency committee chaired by State, we are suggesting to Andy Berding that a country-by-country (Free World) analysis be prepared which would attempt to show the probable opinion reaction to (a) U.S. intervention to defend the offshore islands with conventional weapons, (b) U.S. intervention with nuclear weapons, and (c) U.S. failure to intervene militarily. Both CIA and USIA ought to be able to contribute a good deal to such a study, which should be useful to the committee in carrying out its assignment.

Sincerely,

Abbott Washburn
Deputy Director

The Honorable
C. P. Cabell
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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EXECUTIVE DECISION FILE

USIA

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